

4.1.2 City of Tulsa, Oklahoma

The City of Tulsa's comprehensive approach to floodplain management includes watershed planning, property buyouts, strict floodplain and site development regulations, on-going stormwater facility maintenance, and planned capital improvement projects. Three goals of the City's floodplain and stormwater program are to prevent new problems, to correct existing problems and to enhance the community's safety, environment, and quality of life.

Master drainage plans have been completed for most of the drainage basins within the City. Each plan documents existing floodplain information and recommends solutions for flooding and drainage problems. The City of Tulsa Flood and Stormwater Management Plan 1990-2005, serves as a comprehensive city-wide plan by ranking and prioritizing recommended projects identified in the individual master drainage plans.

In addition to the master planning effort, Tulsa has coordinated the removal of more than 900 buildings from the floodplain in the last 15 years. The largest relocation project was implemented after the 1984 flood on Mingo Creek when 300 single-family homes and 228 mobile home pads were removed from the floodplain. Cleared floodplains are converted to public amenities such as parks and greenway trails.

The City enforces regulations that exceed the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) minimum standards. The City's floodplain regulations are based on ultimate build-out conditions for the watersheds, and not on existing development as required by NFIP. In addition, on-site detention is required for new and substantially improved developments. If detention is not feasible on-site, fees are paid to fund regional detention facilities. The City also requires compensatory storage for fill placed within the floodplain.

Since the City began its floodplain management and stormwater program 15 years ago, there has been no record of flooding in any building built according to the new regulations. As a result, the City has benefited from the lowest flood insurance premiums in the country.

Source: www.cityoftulsa.org/Public+Works/Flood+Control